

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-6 are amended and claim 4 is canceled. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that "[t]he prior art does not disclose nor suggest inclusion of 0.05-0.5 moles of dimethyldialkoxysilane with the 8-50 moles water, 0.1-0.5 moles of the polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene surfactant and 1 mole of alkoxysilane as the starting materials for forming a porous silica film. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the 0.05-0.5 moles of dimethyldialkoxysilane. As the remaining claims all ultimately depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract because it is asserted that the abstract is too long. Applicants have attached hereto a substitute Abstract that is believed to obviate this objection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract are respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification because the inclusion of brackets is asserted to be misleading. Applicants note that no material is being deleted with the use of the brackets. Applicants further note that only single brackets are used, and not double brackets as would be required to delete material. Thus, there should be no confusion regarding the fact that the bracketed information is part of the specification and that no material is being deleted. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being sufficiently described in the specification. Applicants believe that this rejection is

also obviated by the above amendments to the specification. In the amendments, claim 1 is amended to require an acid or alkaline catalyst and also acid or alkaline hydrolysis. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for containing asserted informalities. Applicants believe that this rejection is obviated by the above amendments to the claims. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over MacDougall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,365,266). This rejection is traversed as it may apply to the amended claims.

As the Examiner indicates in the Office Action, "[t]he prior art does not disclose nor suggest inclusion of 0.05-0.5 moles of dimethyldialkoxysilane in the starting materials for forming a porous silica film. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the 0.05-0.5 moles of dimethyldialkoxysilane. As the remaining claims all ultimately depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

It is believed that extensions of time are not required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 101136-00094.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Carpenter", written over a horizontal line.

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